REMARKS

I.   Overview

These remarks are set forth in response to the Non-Final Office Action mailed

April 30, 2007. As this amendment has been timely filed within the three-month

statutory period, neither an extension of time nor a fee is required. Presently, claims 8

through 21 are pending in the Patent Application, claims 1 through 7 previously having

been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 8 and 15 are independent in nature. In the

Non-Final Office Action, each of claims 8 through 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C.

§ 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent Application Publication

20020165936 by Alston. In response, **Applicant has amended claims 8 and 15** to

clarify the function of the business rule enforcement logic to enforce business rules for

accessing data in a database in respect to values established for corresponding ones of

parameters in a set.

II.   The Applicant's Invention

The Applicants have invented a method and apparatus for generating a user

customized report. In the Applicants' invention, a specified template for producing a

desired report can be retrieved and a set of parameters required to produce the desired

report can be determined from the specified template. For each parameter in the set, a

screen can be selected for providing a user interface through which a value can be

established for the parameter. Moreover, business rule enforcement logic can be

embedded in the selected screen. Finally, each of the selected screens can be saved in a

report definition configured to produce a report while executing the embedded business

rule enforcement logic. In this way, a customized generation of a report definition can be

provided through a data driven application without requiring knowledge of the business

rules associated with the data driven application. Yet, the user customizable reporting

tool can permit the complete customization of the report definition by the end user as

would ordinarily be the case with a stand alone reporting tool

III.   Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

    A.   Characterization of Alston

    Alston teaches a network-based Web site configuration and Web site processing

facility. The facility is shown to include a network location at which subscribers define,

create, and configure respective Web sites to provide a hosted Web site, from which

corresponding Web pages will be dynamically generated and served to customers. The

Web pages can be changed and previewed in real time from the subscriber's Web

browser. Thereafter, the subscriber's Web pages may be viewed by Web site visitors.

    B.   Amendments to Claims 1 and 8

    Whereas Alston teaches the deployment of a Web site providing an e-commerce

channel, Applicants' invention unrelatedly teaches the customization of a report through a

reporting tool without requiring the customizer of the report to maintain an awareness of

business rules for accessing data in a database in respect to parameter values provided

through the reporting tool. The Examiner refers to paragraph [0045] of Alston in

interpreting business rules, however, as shown by the excerpted portion of Alston, the

"rules" of Alston relate to how business services like order entry, purchase orders and

RFPs are to be processed:

> [0045] The process engine 105 of the e-commerce channel 102 is a set of software
> applications (or an underlying application engine) that uses the branding information and
> the configuration information, and other appropriate data 107 stored in the central e-
> commerce channel, to handle a business service provided by the e-commerce system 100.

The process engine 105 contains logic and **rules on how certain business services (e.g., order entry, requests for proposal (RFP), purchase orders, and the like) should be processed.** For example, using the branding information and configuration information defined via the administration application 104, the process engine runs the underlying engine or logic to process orders, for example, stores the order record into the appropriate database, updates the counts available, checks to determine if there are sufficient stocks on hand, and the like. Depending on the services provided by the central e-commerce channel 102, the process engine 105 may have various additional capabilities and features. The process engine 105 may be integrated with the on-demand site application 106.

Applicants in an effort to provide clarifying claim language have amended claims 8 and 15 to expressly recite the business rule enforcement logic enforcing business rules for accessing data in a database in respect to values established for corresponding parameters in a set necessary to produce a desired report.

VI.   Conclusion

The Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) owing to the amended claims and the foregoing remarks. The Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 30, 2007   /Steven M. Greenberg/

Steven M. Greenberg, Reg. No.: 44,725
Carey, Rodriguez, Greenberg & Paul, LLP
Customer No. 46321